

TOWN OF LAUDERDALE-BY-THE-SEA
TOWN COMMISSION
SPECIAL COMMISSION WORKSHOP

Town Commission Meeting Room
4501 Ocean Drive
Wednesday, September 26, 2007
7:00 P.M.

1. CALL TO ORDER, MAYOR OLIVER PARKER

Mayor Parker called the meeting to order at 5:00 p.m. Vice Mayor Yanni, Commissioner McIntee, Commissioner Silverstone, Mayor Pro Tem Clark were present. Also present were Town Manager Esther Colon and Town Clerk June White.

2. PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE TO THE FLAG

3. OPEN FORUM ON THE FIRE ASSESSMENT TO ALLOW THE PUBLIC AND THE TOWN COMMISSION TO EXCHANGE THEIR VIEWS ON WHETHER THERE SHOULD BE A FIRE ASSESSMENT AND IF SO, HOW MUCH IT SHOULD BE.

Mayor Parker opened the meeting for public discussion.

Maureen McIntee believed the fire assessment should be either \$260 or \$130, but not zero.

Frank Hermann felt there should be a fire assessment at \$130 this year to keep it low, but not at zero.

Christie Furth thought that the Commission should speak first so that the residents would be able to direct their questions appropriately.

L. Peanuts Wick compared the fire costs for last year to this year and did not believe emergency funds should be used to cover the shortfall. He believed if the Broward Sheriff's office was put on notice the Town could seek bids from Ft. Lauderdale and Pompano Beach, in addition to the Broward Sheriff's Office. Mr. Wick wanted to keep the assessment at \$130.

Stuart Dodd thought that a zero fire assessment made zero sense. He believed the solution to the Town's debt was to do away with Broward Sheriff's Office and send out Request for Proposals.

John McMillan felt that a \$13 million debt equaled poor management and suggested negotiating with the Volunteer Fire Department and keep the fire assessment low.

Town Commission Special Workshop Minutes
September 26, 2007

Lisa Mitchell encouraged the Commission to get bids and bring back the Volunteer Fire Department.

Rosa Magolio preferred the fire assessment be calculated on square footage.

Barbara Cole wanted to know what the cost would be to bring in Pompano Beach and/or Ft. Lauderdale. She wanted to see facts and numbers. Ms. Cole thought that a referendum next year would be the right way to go.

Ron Piersante believed that both \$260 and/or \$130 was a fair amount but sooner or later the Piper will need to be paid.

John Thompson believed the Commission should go with the square footage calculation next year.

There were no more speakers.

Commissioner McIntee stated that Broward Sheriff's Office forgot to deduct the \$444,000 paid to the Volunteer Fire Department. He added that the Town used to get back the ambulance transport costs that the citizens are charged for. Commissioner McIntee felt it was outrageous for the citizens to pay taxes and still have to pay for ambulance service. He stated that the \$130 would hold for this year but must do something next year. Commissioner McIntee believed the shortfall in the budget could be covered if those monies were collected.

Commissioner Silverstone believed that \$130 was fair and would provide adequate service.

Vice Mayor Yanni believed that the Broward Sheriff's Office should not be given notice before the bids go out. He felt that if the bids come in higher the Town could be in trouble.

Mayor Pro Tem Clark did not believe the Town would get a response on the bids if Broward Sheriff's Office was not noticed. He believed an analysis should be done yearly to get a more accurate assessment. Mayor Pro Tem Clark was against a zero assessment and favored a flat rate. He thought \$130 was fair and a good start.

Mayor Parker believed there should not be a fire fee. He felt the fee should be included in the millage. Mayor Parker disagreed that the next Commission should decide on the fire assessment. He felt the citizens should decide through amendments. Mayor Parker also felt that to terminate the Broward Sheriff's Office contract early would cost the town more money as the Town would have to pay for their own fire truck.

Mr. Thompson pointed out that he had made spreadsheets regarding the budget for anyone interested in looking at them.

Town Commission Special Workshop Minutes
September 26, 2007

Commissioner Silverstone said that he and Commissioner McIntee had been fighting fires for years and knew what it was all about. He said a professional consultant was hired to give an analysis and not taken into consideration. Commissioner Silverstone warned that if the Insurance Service Organization decided to do an audit, the Town could be stuck with its chosen rate for a long time, as the Insurance Service Organization only does an audit once every ten years.

4. ADJOURNMENT

Commissioner Silverstone made a motion to adjourn. With no other business before the Commission the meeting was adjourned at 8:55 p.m.

Mayor Oliver Parker

ATTEST:

Town Clerk, June White

Date